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American Jewish Congress
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October 10, 2005

The Honorable Rush Holt
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Attention: Chris Garrett

Dear Rep. Holt:

The American Jewish Congress, one of America's oldest and largest Jewish national organizations, commends your resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration, *Nostra Aetate*.

As you correctly state, *Nostra Aetate* heralds a new relationship of mutual respect between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community. The Jewish people bears a long history as victims of religious persecution, and we particularly appreciate the significance of *Nostra Aetate*'s announcement that the Church "decries hatred, persecution, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone," as well as its endorsement of the enduring validity of Judaism.

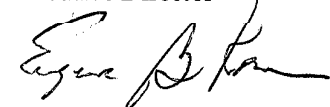
Particularly now when anti-Semitism is rearing its ugly head in Europe, the Middle East, and unfortunately on many of our own college campuses, we must call attention to and celebrate the courageous declaration of Pope Paul VI and the Second Vatican Council.

The American Jewish Congress offers its deepest appreciation for sponsoring this resolution and requesting that the President of the United States recognize the anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* and exert national leadership to ensure that anti-Semitism and all religious bigotry are not tolerated.

Sincerely,



Neil B. Goldstein
Executive Director



Rabbi Eugene Korn, PhD.
Director of Jewish Affairs

cc: Matthew Horn
Paul S. Miller
Sarah Stern

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